

Boston Harbor Islands State Park

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Boston Harbor Islands State Park



Ferry Departure Points

Boston

Long Wharf is located at the harbor end of State Street and is easily reached from the MBTA Blue Line's Aquarium stop. Completed in 1710 and lengthened in 1740 to a half mile in length. Long Wharf enabled vessels of any draft to unload directly onto the wharf.

South Shore

Hewitt's Cove, in Hingham is located off of Route 3A. It is accessible by public bus #220 from Quincy Center MBTA Station. Hewitt's Cove, site of the Bethlehem-Hingham Shipyard during World War II, is the location of DEM's Park Headquarters. Free parking is available. Commuter boat service to Boston (Rowes Wharf) is also available from Hingham on weekdays.

North Shore

Lynn's Seaport Landing Marina is adjacent to the Lynn Heritage State Park on Route 1A. The five-acre park features a long boardwalk and a shade shelter. Parking is available. The Heritage State Park Visitors Center is located at the corner of Washington and Union Street, a short walk from the marina. Open on a limited basis, the Visitors Center features exhibits about Lynn's history. For more information call (617) 598-1974.

Hull

Boats leave Hull from Pemberton Point at the end of Nantasket Avenue (Across from Hull High School). Parking is available.

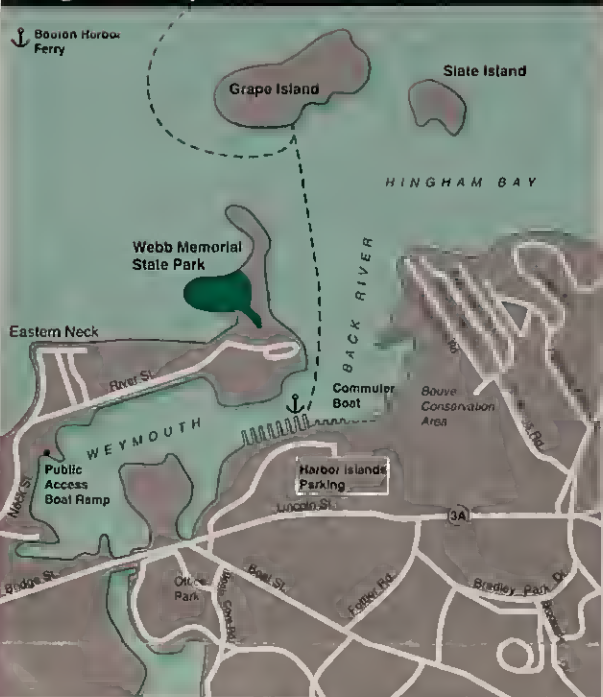
Gallops Island is home to large gull colonies.
(Terri Talas Drawing)



Boston Downtown Waterfront



Hingham Ferry



Lynn Ferry



Park Activities

	Georges	Gallops	Lovells	Pedlocks	Bumpkin	Grape	Thompson	Webb
Swimming beach with lifeguard								
Picnic areas								
Trails								
Camping								
Boating piers								
Guided Walks								
Historic fort or ruins								
Information desk								
Refreshment stand								
Toilet facilities								
Handicapped access*								
Access by car								

*Access varies, please call for more information

Regulations

1. The Park is open from 9 a.m. to sunset.
2. Charcoal or fuel cooking stoves allowed only at designated picnic or camping sites. No open fires allowed on Georges Island. On other islands, wood fires allowed on beaches below high tide line. Please use driftwood. Bonfires prohibited.
3. Pets not permitted on any islands.
4. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on all islands except in designated campsites on Grape and Bumpkin Islands.
5. Firearms are prohibited.
6. Docking is available at Georges Island on a first-come first-serve basis. On all other islands, private boats may off-load passengers at the docks, but must moor offshore. Dinghies are provided during the summer season.
7. Camping is available on Grape, Bumpkin, Pedlocks and Lovells Islands. Permits must be obtained from DEM for Grape and Bumpkin. For Pedlocks and Lovells call MDC.
8. Day-use permits required for all groups of 25 or more. For Grape, Bumpkin, and Gallops Islands call DEM. For Georges, Pedlocks, and Lovells Islands call MDC.
Call For Permits: DEM (617) 740-1605, MDC: (617) 727-5290



Visitors can get sweeping views of the harbor and the Boston Skyline from the Boston Harbor Islands ferries.
(Photo by Gene Peach)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William F. Weld, Governor
Paul Cellucci, Lt. Governor
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Trudy Cox, Secretary
Department of Environmental Management
Peter C. Webber, Commissioner
Division of Forests and Parks
100 Cambridge Street, 19th Floor, Boston, MA 02202
Telephone: (617) 727-3480
Metropolitan District Commission
David Balfour, Jr., Commissioner
20 Somerset St., 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: (617) 727-5250



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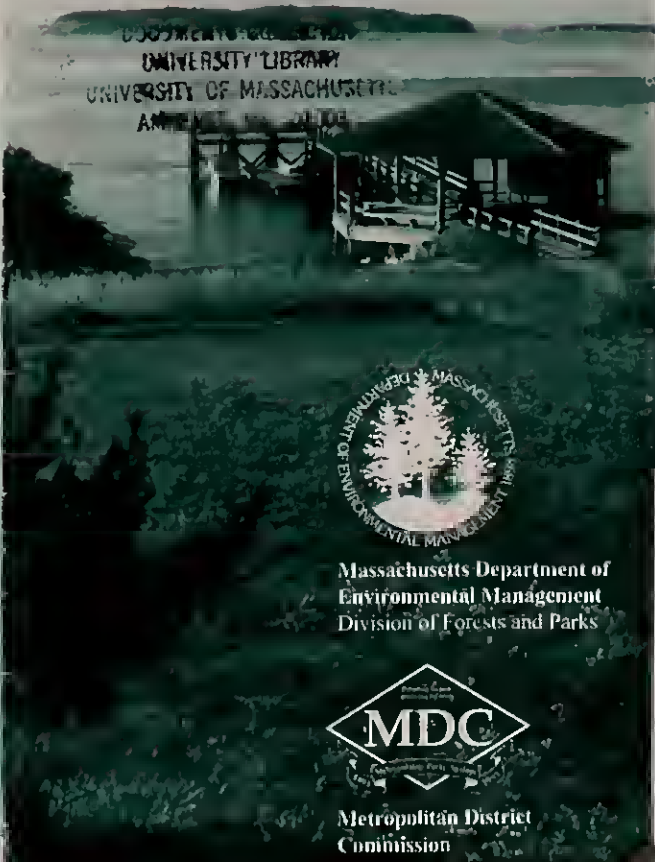
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Cover photo: View of Boston Harbor from Gallops Island.
(Photo by Gene Peach)

Below: The rocky shore of Grape Island, a delight for naturalists, is home to a variety of wild berries and birds.
(Terri Talas Drawing)

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Boston Harbor Islands State Park



Welcome to the Boston Harbor Islands

The Harbor islands are a wonderful natural resource, only minutes from downtown Boston. Seventeen of the islands are managed as a unique state park with six islands staffed and open for daily public use, operated cooperatively by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

Visitors to the park enjoy seashell and slate beaches, flowering meadows, historic structures, hiking paths, picnic and camping areas, birds, wildlife, and spectacular views of Massachusetts Bay and the Boston skyline. From May 1st through Columbus Day, resident island rangers provide ongoing education programs and special events. School programs are available by request in the spring and fall.

It's easy to get to the islands. From downtown Boston take the MBTA Blue Line to Aquarium Station and board a Bay State Cruise Co. ferry at Long Wharf. Limited ferry service is also available from the South Shore (Hingham, Hull), and the North Shore (Lynn). Ferries are privately operated on weekends May to October and seven days a week from late June through Labor Day. A fee is charged. Free water taxi service among the islands is provided on a frequent basis. Taxi schedules are available at all departure points.

Day use permits are required for groups of 25 or more. Permits are also required for camping. For more information and to obtain permits, contact: DEM (Gallops, Grape and Bumpkin permits) at (617) 740-1605 or MDC (Georges, Peddocks and Lovells) at (617) 727-5290.



Take a self-guided tour of Bumpkin Island where you'll discover the ruins of an old farmhouse dating to the 1800's, a children's hospital which existed from 1901-1945, and the mess hall from a U.S. Navy Training Base dating to 1917. (Murgie Coffin drawing)

Georges Island (MDC)

This 30-acre island is dominated by Fort Warren, a National Historic Landmark. Constructed of granite between 1833 and 1869, Fort Warren was used during the Civil War for training Union soldiers and later as a prison for captured Confederates. Park Rangers offer guided tours and special programs from May through October. The island has large picnic areas, a snack bar, and an information booth. A free water taxi to the other islands departs from the pier at Georges on a frequent schedule.

Gallops Island (DEM)

Gallops has picnic areas, hiking paths and scenic views. This 16-acre island housed a maritime radio school during World War II, remnants of which are still visible.

Lovells Island (MDC)

Visitors to this 62-acre island can enjoy exploring the remains of Fort Standish, along trails that pass by dunes, salt-marsh and woods. The island offers picnic areas, scenic overlooks, 11 campsites and the park's only designated lifeguarded swimming beach.

Peddocks Island (MDC)

At 134 acres, Peddocks is one of the largest, diverse islands in the harbor. The Island's East Head contains the remains of Fort Andrews, active in harbor defense from 1904 to the end of World War II. The island has 10 campsites and its trails pass by salt-marsh, a pond, and mature coastal forests. Peddocks Visitor's Center has educational displays on the island's natural and military history.



Park Rangers display two lobsters, a small part of the abundant life in the waters around the islands. (Photo by Gene Peach)

Bumpkin Island (DEM)

Wildflowers grow along the trails which lead visitors to the remains of a children's hospital and stone farmhouse. The island's slate and shell beaches and open fields provide a relaxing atmosphere. 1 group and 10 individual campsites are available on this 35-acre island.

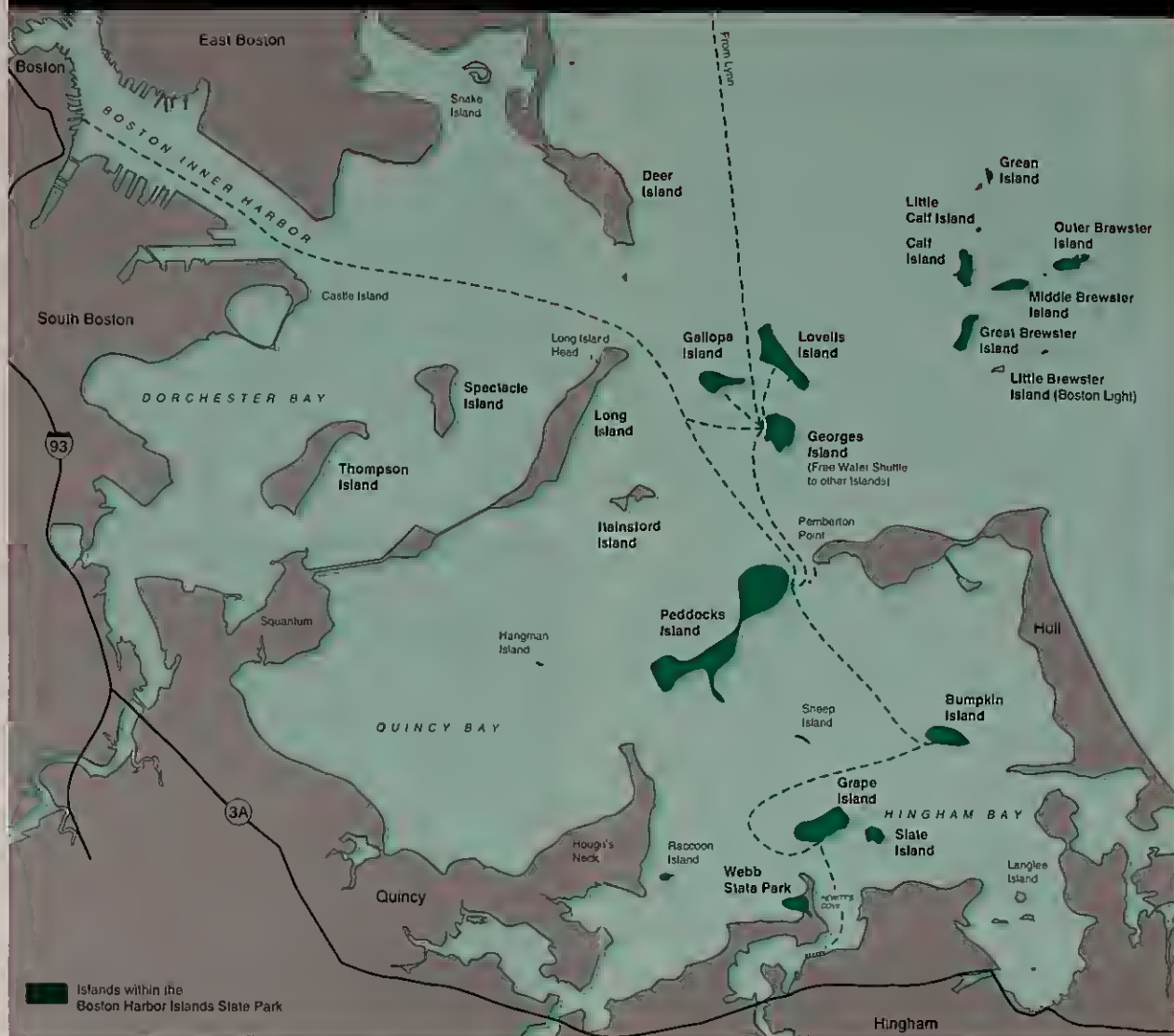
Grape Island (DEM)

Grape was once used by Native Americans and colonial farmers. The island's 50 acres is a haven for wildlife. Wild blackberries, bayberries and rose hips proliferate on the island, providing food for a wide variety of birds and hours of delight for naturalists. Grape is one of the few Boston Harbor islands without historic structures. Other features include picnic areas, 1 group and 10 individual campsites, and many wooded trails.

Thompson Island

Privately owned by the Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, the island's 157 acres are open year-round. Guided tours, hiking, picnicking, educational programs and conference facilities are available. For more information and ferry service call (617) 328-3900.

Boston Harbor Islands



Little Brewster Island

Owned by the U.S. Coast Guard and site of famous Boston Light, the oldest continuous aid to navigation in the United States. Contact the Friends of Boston Harbor Islands for scheduled tours at (617) 740-4290.

PLEASE NOTE

Fresh water is NOT available on any islands. Visitors should bring sufficient supplies for their own use.

Webb Memorial State Park (DEM)

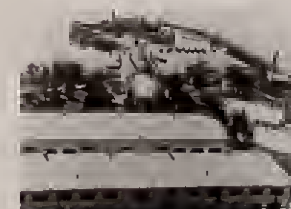
This 36-acre peninsula in Weymouth features scenic walking trails, harbor vistas, and tables and grills for picnicking, and a group picnic pavilion. (Call (617) 740-1605 for reservation information). The park is accessible by car. During the 1950's this site served as a Nike missile base.



Campers have the option of camping at Grape, Bumpkin, Peddocks, and Lovells Islands. (DEM file photo)



Day trippers picnic on Georges Island, where most of the ferries stop first. (Photo by Gene Peach)



From 1866 to the mid 1930's, Gallops Island contained a quarantine hospital for sick immigrants. Gallops was the site of a U.S. Government maritime radio school during world war II. (DEM file photo)



Above: Fort Warren held confederate prisoners during the Civil War. Take a guided or self-guided tour of the fort. It offers excellent views in all directions from the lookout tower. (DEM file photo)

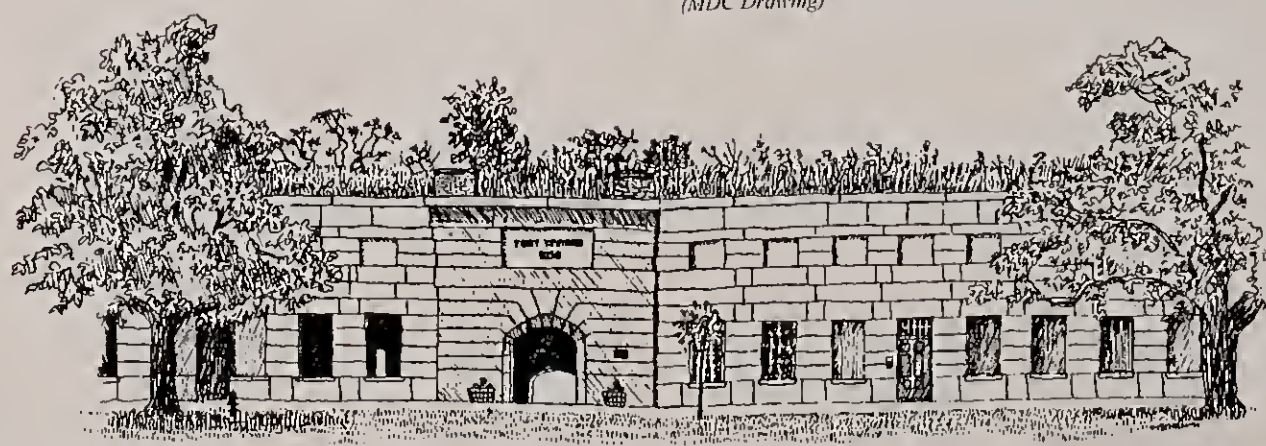


A historic church on the shore of Peddocks Island. (MDC file photo)



Free water taxi service is available for easy island-hopping. (Photo by Gene Peach)

Below: The ruins of Fort Warren on George's Island. (MDC Drawing)



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*Cover photo: View of Boston Harbor from Gallops Island.
(Photo by Gene Peach)*

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